WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

Claims 1 through 24: (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said fastening apparatus comprises a bolt.

26. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said fastening apparatus comprises at least one protuberance that is insertable into a complementary back cut groove defined in at least one of said roll body or said friction roll parallel to the axis of said friction roll.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 29, wherein said fastening apparatus further comprises a bolt device that is extendable through recesses in both of said connectors.

31. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 30, wherein said bolt device is extendable into at least one of said roll body or said friction roll.

32. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 29, wherein said connectors comprise clips.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 29, wherein surfaces of said friction ring and said connectors form a shape-based connection to secure said friction ring to said roll body.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for friction driving a spool on a textile machine, said apparatus comprising:

a friction roll having at least one rotatable roll body disposed thereon;

a friction ring carried on said rotatable roll body, said friction ring configured as a belt with two open ends bound together by a fastening apparatus;

wherein said friction ring is elastically constructed in a length direction so that said friction ring when installed on said roll body is subjected to tensile force; and

wherein said friction ring exhibits a cross-section that diminishes from a center portion of said friction ring to edges of said friction ring when no tensile force is acting on said friction ring.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 38, wherein said cross-section of said friction ring is about constant when subject to said tensile force equal to that of installation on said roll body.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 38, wherein said friction ring exhibits a width that diminishes with increasing distance from said ends of said friction ring when no tensile force is acting on said friction ring.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 23, wherein said fastening apparatus further comprises a bolt device that is extendable through recesses in both of said ends of said friction ring.

48. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 47, wherein said bolt device is extendable into at least one of said roll body.

49. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine, the textile machine having a friction roll defining axial and radial directions, the friction roll comprising at least one rotatable roll body for driving the spool, the at least one rotatable roll body having a body width along the axial direction and having at least two portions, one portion with a radius of r1 and another portion with a radius of r2, wherein the radius r1 is less than the radius r2, the friction ring comprising:

a flexible belt having a belt width that is less than the body width of the at least one rotatable body; said flexible belt having two ends that may be separated from each other such that said flexible belt can be wrapped around the rotatable roll body without removing the friction roll from the textile machine, said flexible belt being positioned upon the portion of the rotatable roll body having a radius of r1; and

a fastening apparatus configured for connecting said two ends when said flexible belt is wrapped around the at least one rotatable roll body.

50. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said fastening apparatus is configured for connecting said two ends together by radial movement of one end relative to the other end once the flexible belt has been wrapped about the at least one rotatable roll body.

51. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a

textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said fastening apparatus further comprises a pair of hooks with each said hook attached to one of said ends, said hooks oriented such that during operation of the textile machine a load is applied in a non-axial direction that locks together said pair of hooks.

52. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said flexible belt is in tension along its length when positioned around the portion of the at least one rotatable roll body having the radius of r1.

53. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said fastening apparatus is attached to the at least one rotatable roll body to further secure said friction ring.

54. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 53, wherein said fastening apparatus is further attached to the at least one rotatable roll body by at least one auxiliary fastener.

55. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said flexible belt is constructed from an elastic material.

56. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said friction ring is constructed with a curvature that conforms to the curvature of said at least one rotatable roll body.

57. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said fastening apparatus comprises an adhesive.

58. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said fastening apparatus further comprises a pair of hooks joined to said flexible belt, and wherein said flexible belt is formed from a material that is

more elastic than the material used for constructing said pair of hooks.

59. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 49, wherein said flexible belt has a plurality of grooves oriented perpendicular to the length of said flexible belt and positioned on a surface out of contact with the rotatable roll body.

60. (Currently Amended) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine, the textile machine comprising at least one rotatable roll body for driving the spool, the friction ring comprising:

at least one belt positioned upon the rotatable roll body, said belt constructed from an elongated strip of flexible material that can be readily wrapped around or removed from said rotatable roll body without removing said rotatable roll body from the drive shaft, said at least one belt having two ends that ~~may be readily~~ are configured for connection~~ed~~ or separation~~ed~~ from each other by displacement of one end relative to the other along a radial direction of the rotatable roll body; and

means for connecting said two ends when said flexible belt is wrapped around said at least one rotatable roll body.

61. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 60, wherein the axial position of said at least one belt along the rotatable roll body is maintained by differences in the radius of the rotatable roll body.

62. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 60, wherein said at least one belt has a cross-section that diminishes from a center to the edges of said belt when no tensile force is acting upon said at least one belt.

63. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a

textile machine as in claim 60, wherein the cross-section of said at least one belt is about constant when subjected to tensile forces holding said belt in position on the at least one rotatable roll body.

64. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 60, wherein said at least one belt has a width that diminishes with increasing distance from the ends of said belt when no tensile force is acting upon said belt.

65. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 60, wherein said at least one belt has a plurality of grooves oriented perpendicularly to the length of said at least one belt.

66. (Previously Presented) A friction ring for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 60, wherein said means for connecting said two ends comprises a pair of hooks connected to the two ends of said at least one belt.

67. (New) An apparatus for friction driving a spool on a textile machine, said apparatus comprising:

a friction roll having at least one rotatable roll body disposed thereon, said rotatable roll body having a portion with radius r1 that is axially adjacent to a portion with radius r2, wherein radius r1 is less than radius r2;

a friction ring carried on the portion of said rotatable roll body having a radius of r1, said friction ring positioned axially adjacent to the portion with radius r2, said friction ring configured as a flexible belt with two ends; and

a fastening device that binds together the two ends of said friction ring.

68. (New) An apparatus for friction driving a spool on a textile machine as in claim 67, wherein said fastening device also creates a joint that extends along the axial direction

of said rotatable roll body and extends across the entire width of said flexible belt when said fastening device binds the two ends of said flexible belt together.